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siderations. While wages are nominally high, they are kept so only to attract immigrants; really the lot of the American workman is worse than that of the German. America can, however, offer some lessons to Germany—the energy and success of American capitalists have spurred the German state and individual enterprises to renewed exertions and jostled them out of old ruts. But for the most part the author holds us up as *ein abschreckendes Beispiel*.

Dr. Junge is a severe critic though in some respects a just one. In the practice of his profession he has undoubtedly seen the capitalistic methods, of which he complains, unpleasantly exemplified. To deny the existence of national ideals and of high ethical standards is, however, to misunderstand the best part of the American people. The book has a certain value, as the serious criticism of an educated man must always have, but the author's unsympathetic, even hostile attitude, and too exclusive reliance upon the perfervid utterances of radical reformers, detracts decidedly from the value of his conclusions. The author's style, it may be noted in conclusion, is sometimes as repellant as his logic; the reviewer caught on the second page a single sentence of 202 words.

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Social Forces in American History. By A. M. SIMONS. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. xiii, 325. \$1.50.)

In the words of the author, he has "tried to describe the dynamics of history rather than to record the accomplished facts"; in other words, to give an economic interpretation of American history. Of the twenty-four chapters of the book, twenty-three deal with the period from the discovery of America through the Reconstruction, while the final chapter of only fourteen pages treats of the period subsequent. The phenomena of this latest period are but scantily noted and too little advantage is taken of the opportunity they offer for the application of the author's point of view. The position is simply that of the Marxian socialists. Briefly, it is that there is an economic bug under every historical chip, and if it be not a real bug, it is a humbug. The author's results may be epitomized as follows: The discovery of

America was due to the pressure of the need for new markets of a merchant-ruled society; colonization was a matter of economic necessity, and the religious wars which precipitated emigration to America were a reflex of European capitalism; the American Revolution was due to the need of an independent government by New England smugglers, Middle States manufacturers, and Southern land speculators; and these "dominant interests" won over the laboring and small business classes by raising the slogans of paper money and popular government; the constitution was the result of a "conspiratory trick" of the ruling class, composed of merchants, manufacturers and planters; the Embargo and Non-Intercourse acts were caused by the South's desire of reprisal against England on account of the low price of cotton; the Republican party was born because "the little competitive bourgeoisie" of the North needed control of the national government, and the South precipitated civil war because the success of this party at the polls took away from the slavery interests the control of the government which was essential to the continuance of their industrial system; the Reconstruction was a machination of the great capitalists for keeping alive sectional hatred until they had seized all the strategic points of social control. The idealistic element is conceded some influence in revolutionary movements only, but this recognition is weakened by treating it only in connection with the organization of the Republican party and by associating it chiefly with that which pertained to labor and socialism.

An indispensable feature of the method followed by Marxian socialists is the existence and activity, at every period, of a "dominant" or "ruling class." In his application of this feature the author shows the usual facility: for example, the ruling class in Europe at the time of the discovery of America is said to have been the merchant class (p. 4). That the merchant class was important at this time cannot be denied; but that it, as compared with the landed interest, was the dominant class, may be disputed. The author, furthermore, does not maintain his position consistently on this point (pp. 4, 43, and 70). The varied activities of early American economic life make it an impossible task to refer political action to the interests of one single class, except in the case of the slave-owning class; so the author evades the difficulty by assembling now and then the heterogeneous elements and de-

signating the whole as capitalism. Thus, the elements of the Jacksonian democracy are characterized as "expectant capitalists." Again, Northern capitalism at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War seems to mean an alliance of merchant, manufacturer, small farmer, and free laborer; but in 1868, it means the machine-owning class.

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The Industrial History of the Negro Race of the United States.

By GILES B. JACKSON and D. WEBSTER DAVIS. School edition. (Richmond, Va.: Negro Educational Association. 1911. Pp. 369.)

This modest volume lives fairly well up to its title. About one third of its pages are given to an interesting and informing account of the negro exhibit at the Jamestown exposition; there are chapters on the early history of the negro, on slavery, on religion and on education; negro literature, art and inventions are also treated. There are six short chapters on the negro as a soldier, and one on the achievements of the race in accumulating property in Virginia. One chapter is given to the reproduction of negro poems and melodies, and one gives a sketch of the Rev. John Jasper, of "The Sun Do Move" fame. The volume closes with Mr. Carnegie's address on "The Negro in America."

The authors are plainly prompted by a desire to render a service to their people, and there is nothing of the offensive in their recital of racial achievements. The limitations of the book are as patent as its purpose is honest, and he would be a captious and hard-hearted critic, indeed, who would subject it to the analysis which would be proper for a more pretentious undertaking. We may very well make allowance for the exuberance, both of spirit and of language, which declares John Jasper to have promulgated a doctrine "which baffled the wisdom of learned astronomers," (p. 293) and ranks Andrew Carnegie as "one of the greatest leaders of thought" (p. 318).

Books by negro authors long ago ceased to attract attention because of the single merit of novelty. They now constitute a fairly important branch of American literature. Far too many of them, however, have for their single purpose the airing of grievances and complaints. Like the white man's contribution to the